

You Can... Use an interactive whiteboard to show video resources

Video material offers a range of unique experiences that can transport children to worlds they might never otherwise experience. An interactive whiteboard enables video resources to be accessed efficiently. It allows you to integrate video much more easily within a lesson, without the need to move children or television monitors. The way you access film resources will depend on what equipment is available to you. Film resources may be accessed via a video recorder, a DVD, a CD-ROM, or downloaded from the web or a local server. Without a very fast Internet connection, however, video streaming in a classroom is not advisable.

Thinking points

- Consider how the video links to the lesson and whether it will be used to introduce a topic, as a major resource in teaching a topic or to consolidate previous work.
- Think carefully about how much video to show. Since it is easy to access through the whiteboard, two or three minutes may be enough to illustrate a teaching point. On the other hand, 15 minutes may be required to give sufficient context to capture children's engagement and interest and to provide real learning.
- Preview the resource to consider where the video might be paused, so that children can predict what might happen next or to find out what children have previously understood. Pausing the video helps to give a more interactive experience.

Tips, ideas and activities

- You can use video to:
 - show the wider world, through films of natural phenomena, animals in habitat, volcanoes, distant and inaccessible places and points of view from different people
 - show the historical world, through archive film, examples of oral history and the dramatisation of historical events
 - show the scientific world, through slow motion or time lapse images and the use of magnified images through an electron microscope
 - show the emotional or inner world, through the experiences of different people, using case studies or drama reconstructions to encourage empathy with someone else's situation
 - show the world of literature, through dramatisations
 - move from the concrete to the abstract in mathematics, through a split screen or through images that gradually transform
 - create motivation in what is to be learned by the use of interesting case studies, animation, cartoons, humour and drama.
- After viewing, discuss with the children what the film sequence was about to help consolidate their learning.
- Most importantly, if the video sequence uses humour or lends itself to joining in, encourage children to do this and enjoy it with them as a whole class activity.